

Message Text

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43

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 H-03 OMB-01 ACDA-19 AEC-11 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6375

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS BONN 10305

USNMR SHAPE FOR INTAF; DISTO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, GW, US

SUBJECT: MBFR--DEFMIN LEBER INTERVIEW ON STATIONED/
INDIGENOUS REDUCTION ISSUE.

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES INITIAL COMMENTS OF
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DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER CONCERNING MBFR STATIONED/

INDIGENOUS REDUCTION ISSUE, AS MADE FOLLOWING MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AND UPON RETURN IN BONN. BALANCE OF PRESS CONFERENCE AND FURTHER REPORT ON THIS MBFR ISSUE BY SEPTELS. END SUMMARY.

1. JULY 18 GERMAN TV NEWS CARRIED SHORT WASHINGTON INTERVIEW WITH DEFMIN LEBER, FOLLOWING LATTER'S MEETING WITH SECDEF, ON MBFR STATIONED/INDIGENOUS REDUCTION ISSUE. LEBER SAID: QUOTE WE HAVE THOROUGHLY DISCUSSIONED THIS SUBJECT. IT IS NECESSARY THAT WE DEVELOP NOT ONLY OUR OWN OPINION ON IT BUT ALSO THAT WE REACH AGREEMENT IN THE ALLIANCE. I CONSIDER IT CORRECT, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT CORRECT AND THIS IS ALSO THE TENDENCY HERE IN AMERICA, THAT IN THE FIRST STEP STATIONED FORCES WILL BE REDUCED. WHICH WAY ONE WILL FIND TO INCLUDE INDIGENOUS FORCES IN EUROPE IN A SECOND STEP MUST STILL BE CONSIDERED. THIS IS NOT ONLY A QUESTION OF PRACTICAL PROCEDURES AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE BUT RATHER ALSO A MATTER OF CONCEPTIONS AND OF FORMULAS WHICH ONE MAY FIND TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE. IF MBFR AS A WHOLE IS TO BE SENSIBLE, IT NATURALLY CANNOT REMAIN A MATTER OF IN ANY CASE ONLY REDUCING STATIONED FORCES WITH INDIGENOUS FORCES BEING UNAFFECTED. UNQUOTE

2. DURING JULY 19 BONN PRESS CONFERENCE COVERING ENTIRE VISIT TO WASHINGTON, LEBER ALSO WAS ASKED ABOUT STATIONED/INDIGENOUS ISSUE. ACKNOWLEDGING "CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES" FOR US TROOP CUTS, LEBER SAID USG DETERMINED TO OPPOSE ONE-SIDED REDUCTIONS AS SUCH CUTS ALSO WOULD UNDERMINE "THE ENTIRE UNDERTAKING IN VIENNA". BUT LEBER SAID HE COULD IMAGINE "THAT A NEGOTIATION TECHNIQUE WOULD BE SELECTED SO THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF REDUCTIONS IN STATIONED FORCES OF THE TWO SUPER-POWERS IN EUROPE.. ..COULD PERHAPS TAKE PLACE EARLIER THAN WAS ONCE ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED". ASKED CONCERNING POSSIBLE FRG OBJECTIONS TO EARLIER REDUCTIONS FOR STATIONED VICE INDIGENOUS FORCES, LEBER SAID: QUOTE HOW COULD WE OBJECT IF THE PROPER FORMULA IS FOUND....WE HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEVER REQUESTED THAT STATIONED FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED AT THE EXACT SAME TIME AS INDIGENOUS FORCES.. ..WE ONLY RAISE THE PROCEDURAL QUESTION AS TO HOW INDIGENOUS FORCES COULD IN ANY EVENT BE HANDLED IN MBFR....IT IS SELF-EVIDENT THAT STATIONED FORCES HAVE PRIORITY BECAUSE IT IS QUITE SIMPLY A GIVEN OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. UNQUOTE

3. FINALLY, ASKED CONCERNING FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE
REPORT OF INITIAL US TROOP CUTS IN 1974, LEBER SAID:
QUOTE I HAVE NOT HEARD SUCH A FINE POINT AS
MENTIONED IN THIS REPORT IN FAZ AND WE HAVE NOT IN
ANY CASE DISCUSSED SUCH A DATE....IT IS NOT FOR TWO
SIDES TO DECIDE ON DATES AND NEGOTIATING RESULTS
BUT IS RATHER A MATTER FOR THE ALLIANCE. UNQUOTE
HILLENBRAND

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